IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A method in a data processing system for preventing exchange of viruses with a device wirelessly coupled to the data processing system, the method comprising:

maintaining preexisting content for the device in a first location in the data processing system, the preexisting content being a duplicate copy of executable code maintained within the device and used by the device for internal operation of the device;

placing new content associated with the device in a second location, wherein the new content is an update to replace at least some of the preexisting content;

combining the preexisting content and the new content in a third location to form merged content;

performing a check for viruses on the merged content prior to performing a transfer of the new content; and

storing the merged content as the preexisting content that is maintained in the data processing system if a virus is absent from the merged content.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
sending the merged content to the device if a virus is absent from the merged content.

3.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing system receives the new content from the device.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the device is one of a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, and a wireless telephone, and a personal computer.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first location is a hard disk drive in the data processing system.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first location is a hard disk drive in a storage system remote to the data processing system.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the third location is a random access memory in the data processing system.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of placing, maintaining, and performing are initiated in response to a synchronization process between the data processing system and the device.

10.   (Currently amended) A method in a data processing system for preventing transmission of viruses dynamically during a synchronization between the data processing system and a device, where the data processing system provides device operating code updates to the device during the synchronization, comprising the steps of:

    receiving, by the data processing system, a request to synchronize a the device;

    identifying, by the data processing system, new content associated with the device;

    combining, by the data processing system, the new content with existing content to form merged content; and

    checking, by the data processing system, the merged content for viruses prior to synchronizing the device.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the new content is content received from the device.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the new content is content to be sent to the device.

13.   (Currently amended) A data processing system for preventing exchange of viruses with a device wirelessly coupled to the data processing system, comprising:

    a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to maintain preexisting content for a device in a first location in the data processing system, place new content associated with the device in a second location, wherein the new content is an update to replace at least some of the preexisting content, combine the preexisting content and the new content in a third location to form merged content, perform a check for viruses on the merged content, and store the merged content as the preexisting content that is maintained on the data processing system if a virus is absent from the merged content, wherein the preexisting content is a duplicate copy of executable code maintained within the device and used by the device for internal operation of the device.

14.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

15.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the bus system comprises a single bus.

16.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

17.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the processing unit includes a single processor.

18.   (Currently amended) A data processing system for preventing exchange of viruses with a device wirelessly coupled to the data processing system, the data processing system comprising:

maintaining means for maintaining preexisting content for a the device in a first location in the data processing system, the preexisting content being a duplicate copy of executable code maintained within the device and used by the device for internal operation of the device;

placing means for placing new content associated with the device in a second location, wherein the new content is an update to replace at least some of the preexisting content;

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combining means for combining the preexisting content and the new content in a third location to form merged content;

performing means for performing a check for viruses on the merged content prior to performing a transfer of the new content; and

storing means for storing the merged content as the preexisting content that is maintained in the data processing system if a virus is absent from the merged content.

19.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 18 further comprising:

sending means for sending the merged content to the device if a virus is absent from the merged content.

20.   (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 18 further comprising:

receiving means for receiving the new content from the device.

21.   (Cancelled)

22.   (Currently amended) The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the device is one of a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, and a wireless telephone, and a personal computer.

23.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the first location is a hard disk drive in the data processing system.

24.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the first location is a hard disk drive in a storage system remote to the data processing system.

25.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the third location is a random access memory in the data processing system.

26.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the steps of placing, maintaining, and performing are initiated in response to a synchronization process between the data processing system and the device.

27.   (Currently amended) A data processing system for preventing transmission of viruses dynamically during a synchronization between the data processing system and a device, where the data processing system provides device operating code updates to the device during the synchronization, the data processing system comprising:

   receiving means for receiving a request to synchronize a device;

   identifying means for identifying new content associated with the device;

   combining means for combining the new content with existing content to form merged content; and

   checking means for checking the merged content for viruses prior to synchronizing the device.

28.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the new content is content received from the device.

29.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the new content is content to be sent to the device.

30.   (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for preventing exchange of viruses with a device wirelessly coupled to the data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

   first instructions for maintaining preexisting content for a the device in a first location in the data processing system, the preexisting content being a duplicate copy of executable code maintained within the device and used by the device for internal operation of the device;

   second instructions for placing new content associated with the device in a second location, wherein the new content is an update to replace at least some of the preexisting content;

   third instructions for combining the preexisting content and the new content in a third location to form merged content;

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fourth instructions for performing a check for viruses on the merged content prior to performing a transfer of the new content; and

fifth instructions for storing the merged content as the preexisting content that is maintained in the data processing system if a virus is absent from the merged content.

31.   (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for preventing transmission of viruses dynamically during a synchronization between the data processing system and a device, where the data processing system provides device operating code updates to the device during the synchronization, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a request to synchronize a device;

second instructions for identifying new content associated with the device;

third instructions for combining the new content with existing content to form merged content; and

fourth instructions for checking the merged content for viruses prior to synchronizing the device.